

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An image processing method that makes image data, which includes shooting information obtained at a time of shooting, subjected to a series of image processing suitable for a selected shooting scene, said image processing method comprising:

acquiring image data;

retrieving scene-dependent image processing condition specification information from the acquired image data, wherein the scene-dependent image processing condition specification information is related to the acquired image data by a digital still camera and is used to specify a scene-dependent image processing condition, which is suitable for the selected shooting scene, in an image processing apparatus;

specifying the selected shooting scene based on the shooting information, in the case of failed retrieval of the scene-dependent image processing condition specification information;

acquiring a scene-dependent image processing condition suitable for the specified shooting scene without input of an image processing condition by a user; and

executing image quality adjustment of the image data with the acquired scene-dependent image processing condition.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): An image processing method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said acquiring the scene-dependent image processing condition, in the case of successful retrieval of the scene-dependent image processing condition specification information, is implemented by acquiring the scene-dependent image processing condition corresponding to the retrieved scene-dependent image processing condition specification information from a memory device.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): An image processing method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said specifying the selected shooting scene, when the shooting information includes preset information of the shooting scene, is implemented with the preset information of the shooting scene.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): An image processing method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said specifying the shooting scene is implemented with information based on settings of exposure program, aperture, shutter speed, subject distance range, ISO speed rate, and flash included in the shooting information.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): An image processing method in accordance with claim 3, wherein said specifying the selected shooting scene, when the shooting information does not include the preset information of the shooting scene, is implemented with information based on settings of exposure program, aperture, shutter speed, subject distance range, ISO speed rate, and flash included in the shooting information.

Claim 6 (Original): An image processing method in accordance with any one of claims 1 through 5, wherein the scene-dependent image processing condition is a combination of values of multiple image quality-relating parameters, which are set in advance for each shooting scene.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): An image processing apparatus that makes image data, which includes shooting information obtained at a time of shooting, subjected to a series of image processing suitable for a selected shooting scene, said image processing apparatus comprising:

- an image data acquisition module that acquires image data;

- a memory module that stores multiple scene-dependent image processing conditions set for multiple shooting scenes;

- a scene-dependent image processing condition acquisition module that, in the case of failed retrieval of scene-dependent image processing condition specification information from the acquired image data, specifies the selected shooting scene based on the shooting information and acquires a scene-dependent image processing condition suitable for the specified shooting scene from said memory module without input of an image processing condition by a user, wherein the scene-dependent image processing condition specification information is related to the acquired image data by a digital still camera and is used to specify a scene-dependent image processing condition, which is suitable for the selected shooting scene, in the image processing apparatus; and

- an image quality adjustment module that executes image quality adjustment of the image data with the acquired scene-dependent image processing condition.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A computer-readable storage medium ~~encoded with~~ having a program ~~that causes~~ stored thereon, said program causing a computer to utilize multiple scene-dependent image processing conditions set for multiple shooting scenes and to make image data, which includes shooting information obtained at a time of shooting, subjected to a series of image processing suitable for a selected shooting scene, said program comprising:

a computer command that retrieves scene-dependent image processing condition specification information from the acquired image data, wherein the scene-dependent image processing condition specification information is related to the acquired image data by a digital still camera and is used to specify a scene-dependent image processing condition, which is suitable for the selected shooting scene, in an image processing apparatus;

a computer command that specifies the selected shooting scene based on the shooting information without input of an image processing condition by a user, in the case of failed retrieval of the scene-dependent image processing condition specification information;

a computer command that selects a scene-dependent image processing condition suitable for the specified shooting scene among the multiple scene-dependent image processing conditions; and

a computer command that executes image quality adjustment of the image data with the selected scene-dependent image processing condition.

Claims 9-36 (Canceled).